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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /062 W
----------120999 060846Z /21
R 060826Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0992

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, JA
SUBJECT: ACCURACY OF P.E.N. REPORT: JAPAN

REF: (A) 77 A-4714, (B) 77 STATE 269078

1. P.E.N. REPORT OF "CASES OF REPRESSION" OF WRITERS AS OF OCT. 28, 1977 NAMES AS ONLY CASE IN JAPAN FORMER MAINICHI REPORTER TAKICHI NISHIYAMA. NISHIYAMA WAS GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCE OF FOUR MONTHS IMPRISONMENT ON JULY 20, 1976, UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT ON MAY 31, 1978. BECAUSE SENTENCE WAS SUSPENDED, HE HAS NOT HAD TO SERVE ANY OF PRISON TERM.

2. NISHIYAMA WAS SENTENCED UNDER ART. 111 OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES LAW, "ABETTING THE LEAKING OF SECRETS." IN 1972, AS REPORTER COVERING MOFA FOR MAINICHI NEWSPAPER, HE ESTABLISHED PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY TO THEN DEPMIN AND LATER AMBASSADOR TO US YASUKAWA, AND OBTAINED FROM HER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF GOJ FUNDS RELATED TO OKINAWA REVERSION. IT WAS MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT TO LDP AND SEVERELY DAMAGED CAREERS OF SEVERAL MOFA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING YASUKAWA.

3. JAPANESE PRESS ENJOYS ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
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WHICH IS UNMATCHED EVEN IN US. WHILE SUCH ACCESS HAS SERVED TO SOMEWHAT RETARD GROWTH OF AMERICAN-STYLE IN-VESTIGATIVE REPORTING, PRESS IN JAPAN IS AGGRESSIVE AND NOTED FOR ITS FREEDOM (AND WILLINGNESS) TO ATTACK GOVERN-MENT. NISHIYAMA CASE HARDLY QUALIFIES AS EXAMPLE OF REPRESSION. HE WAS TRIED OPENLY AND FAIRLY ON SPECIFIC CHARGES, AND FACT THAT ORIGINAL STORY WAS NOT PUBLISHED

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WAS DUE TO MAINICHI'S SELF-CENSORSHIP. WE KNOW OF NO JAPANESE JOURNALISTS WHO FEEL THAT NISHIYAMA WAS TREATED UNFAIRLY; IN FACT, PRESS COMMUNITY HAS UNIFORMLY CONDEMNED HIS LACK OF ETHICAL STANDARDS. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D780362-0579
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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